

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President's Message which we lay before our readers in this issue is somewhat lengthy, but will repay perusal, being, as it is, a plain narrative of the present condition of our National affairs, foreign and domestic. Its salient points are the announcement of the satisfactory settlement of the Alabama claims and the San Juan boundary dispute, which removes every shadow upon the friendly relations between this country and England. Our relations with all other foreign powers were also assured of the most amiable and friendly nature. The opinion is expressed, that the continual disturbance and bloodshed in Cuba, are attributable to the perpetuation of slavery in defiance of the law of emancipation, enacted more than two years since. A statement is made showing that the net reduction of our National debt during the last fiscal year was \$99,960,253.34, and from March 1899 to the present date \$935,696,999.87, and in view of the large reduction of taxes already made, the President deems it probable that no further reduction can be made with safety at present.

In the war department there has been a reduction of expenditures amounting in the last year to \$427,834.62, and the estimates for the coming year are placed at \$1,570,775.42 less than the expenditures of last year. The President also calls attention to "the important subject of increasing the facilities of cheaper transportation to the Atlantic seaboard for the large surplus of western products, and recommends Congress to authorize a committee to take the question into consideration, and report to Congress the result of its investigation, as a basis for future legislation on the subject."

The Message also urges upon Congress to take steps to enlarge and strengthen our Navy, and make it strong enough to command respect for our flag abroad, and protection of our rights, and also appoint a commission to take into consideration the best method, equitable to all concerned, of acquiring the title to all telegraphic lines now in operation, and connecting them with the postal service.

The Indian policy is not to be changed, except to make it more efficient when required. It is more successful than was anticipated, having reduced the expense of managing the Indians, decreased their forays upon the whites, given opportunity to build railroads, and permitted the pushing forward of settlements on our far Western land.

11,864,175 acres of the public domain were disposed of during the year; 12,626 patents were issued from the Patent Office for the last year and were \$30,169,340, and the number of pensioners on the rolls June 1, 1912, was 232,229. The recommendation that the census be taken in 1915 is favorably mentioned.

The Centennial Anniversary of American Independence, to be held in Philadelphia July 4, 1876, has special mention, and in concluding, the President says regarding Civil Service, that it will be his earnest endeavor to supply the rules as to secure the greatest possible reform in the civil service of the Government, but that it will require the direct action of Congress to render the system effective and permanent."

On Wednesday last, while the friends of one of the late candidates for President were carrying his mortal remains to the grave, the electors of the several States were assembled at the respective capitals, casting their votes for his successful competitor, who at the time was taking part in the mournful obsequies of his late rival. The Republican electors unanimously cast their 292 votes for Gen. Grant, while of the Greeley electors Hendricks received for President 12 votes from Tennessee, 8 from Maryland, 8 from Kentucky and 8 from Missouri—total 34. Grant Brown got 6 votes from Missouri, 6 from Georgia and 4 from Kentucky—total 16. Horace Greeley received 3, and Charles J. Jenkins 2 votes from Georgia, and David Davis 1 from Missouri, Louisiana, Texas and Florida not heard from definitely.

The report of General Sherman gives the full force of our present army at 29,336 enlisted men, with 2,104 commissioned officers. These official figures show up clearly the twaddle habitually paraded by the opposition, about "Grant's standing army," and the military opposition of the South. We hope the timid souls will breathe easier and feel assured of their personal liberties after realizing the fact that the "bayonet rule" of the government, of which we hear so much, amounts to the control of a force which can be equalled by any one of the States of medium proportions.

FROM SECRETARY ROBINSON'S REPORT we ascertain that the number of vessels in the United States Navy is 178, carrying 1,378 guns. Of these 68 are steamers, 92 guns; 31 sailing vessels, of all classes, 922 guns; 51 iron-clads, 127 guns, and 28 tugs. Of the whole number over 100 are either on the stocks, or repairing, or laid up in ordinary. Many are unfit for service, and to repair them would cost as much as to lay the keels and build new ones.

A bill has been reported to and passed by the house at Washington by nearly a unanimous vote, providing for the speedy abolition of the offices of Assessor and Assistant Assessors of Internal Revenue.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue is an exceedingly valuable one, but entirely too long for our columns. As spirits and tobacco are the two principal sources of taxation we pay, from the report the following items showing the amount produced, and the income obtained from them:

The receipts from spirits of all kinds during the year ending with June last, were \$49,475,515, there being 3649 distillers. The tax received on fermented liquors, at \$1 per barrel, was, for the year 1912, \$8,009,969. The total product of manufactured tobacco, 107,260,855 lbs. The number of cigars, cheroots, etc., on which taxes were collected, was 1,527,705,972. Total receipts, \$32,336,170.

The returns to this office for the last fiscal year, show a total production in taxable gallons from materials other than fruit of \$68,275,745; from fruit, \$757,788; total yearly production, \$69,033,533. Spirits in bond for 1912, 1,571,333 gallons, valued at \$6,742,148; entered during the year ending June 30, 1912, 68,275,745; withdrawn from bond during the same period, 64,914,471; remaining in bond June 30, 1912, 10,103,392; remaining in bond July 1, 1911, less than the quantity stated in the report for 1911, 22,432. Total quantity of spirits not in internal revenue warehouses on May 1, 1912, \$39,672,197 proof gallons. Taxes received on fermented liquors at \$1 per bbl., during the first quarter of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, was \$22,219,392; while the receipts from the same source for the first three months of the present fiscal year was \$2,684,241.

The total receipts from tobacco for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, was \$337,736,170.

THE POSTMASTER GENERAL'S REPORT.

The ordinary revenues of the department for the fiscal year ending June 30, were \$21,915,426.37, and the expenditure for the same period \$26,658,192.31, being a deficiency of nearly five millions of dollars. This branch of our service ought to be and would be, not only self sustaining, but a source of revenue, were it not for the wretched franking privilege. There is some consolation in the fact that the Postmaster General renews his previous recommendation for the abolition of this abuse, and that he has this year fortified it by an array of facts that will have some weight with the members of Congress. The report is comprehensive for its advocacy of the postal telegraphic service scheme, and very valuable for the statistical information it contains. Our postal service is rapidly extending. There are now 57,911 miles of railroad mail routes, and our communication with foreign countries is rapidly increasing. In addition to the recommendations noted above, Mr. Creswell calls for the establishment of post office savings banks, and for the increase of the salaries of the heads of bureaus.

In the course of debate on the bill Mr. Dawes stated, that it was contemplated during the present session of Congress to repeal all Internal Revenue taxes, except those on the manufacture and sale of Spirits and Tobacco, and as these taxes will be collected by stamps there is no longer any necessity for Assessors and their Assistants. The abolition of all other taxes except those on spirits and tobacco will be pleasant news to the business community generally, but judging from an official experience, there will be a large falling off in the receipts, if the payment of taxes is made a mere voluntary act without the supervision of an officer, other than an occasional raid by a detective. Distillers and manufacturers will have to report directly to the Commissioners at Washington, and lists for collection will be transmitted thence to the Collectors in the different districts.

The President has nominated Hon. JAMES L. ORR of South Carolina as Minister to Russia, in place of Andrew G. CURTIS resigned. Some of our Pennsylvania politicians are disposed to growl, claiming that the State should have furnished CURTIS's successor. Judge Orr is a gentleman of fine culture, and has occupied various high positions, having been Governor of his State, Speaker of the XXXIV Congress and Judge of the circuit court.

GEN. HORACE PORTER, (a son of ex-Governor PORTER of this State) has resigned his position as private secretary to the President, and also that of General in the U. S. Army, to take the position of Vice President of the Pullman car company. It is said that he is to receive a salary of twenty thousand dollars a year, and to have entire charge of the affairs of the company, in the absence of WM. PULLMAN, who goes to Europe.

JUDGE NELSON of the Supreme Court of the U. S., has on account of his great age and infirmities resigned his position and the President has appointed WARD HUNT of New York as his successor. The Senate has not yet acted on the nomination.

On Monday the 2nd, Judge MERRICK was sworn in as Justice of the Supreme Court of this State, and assumed his place on the bench, the court being then in session in Philadelphia.

On Tuesday last, week the Governor elect, Gen. HARTSHORN, retired from the Auditor General's office, and Gen. ALLEN entered upon the discharge of his duties.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5, 1912.

A LEADER FOR THE HOUSE.

The opening action of the House of Representatives evidences the sad need of a leader such as Thaddeus Stevens, the brave and able commoner, who could steer down quibblers and castigate bores, while he was equal to the greatest intellectual emergency.

The importance given by Speaker Blaine and the House to the Credit Mobilier scandal, is one of questionable wisdom, in view of the time that will be occupied in the investigation, and the large amount of important business which needs the careful attention of that body. But the most

absurdly impulsive specimen of misplaced generosity on the part of a Republican House to an opponent, was the refusal to accept the resignation of Mr. Banks, (who had deserted to the enemy) of the chairmanship of a leading committee of the House, and thereby rendering it quite probable that two other committees would also be conducted in the interest of political opponents to the end of the session—the chairman of committees having the appointment of clerk, and the House calls upon the responsible dislikers to criticize political friends, where subjects for criticism are furnished in ample quantity by political enemies, yet he can not refrain from calling the attention of members of the House to the fact that they were once his opponents, and take care of their own personal inclinations and private friendships, but servants of the great party who elevated them as its representatives, to look first of all to the success of its principles. That Mr. Roosevelt of New York, the acknowledged bore and ferocious opponent of the administration, who, at the opening of the late campaign, wrote an intemperate and most inaccurate Democratic campaign document against improving our district, should be allowed to drag the House into another investigation of the cost of government improvements, is an unfortunate waste of time that seems entirely unjustified by the wild and reckless assertions of a man whose head is known to be far from level on this already too much investigated subject of obstructing improvements at the national capital.

THE LAST END.

New York, December 4.—The distribution of tickets for admission to the Greeley obsequies was made at the Common Council of this city, the evening of December 3. The persons who were admitted to the obsequies were determined upon by President Grant's ticket having been sent to him at the hotel; and thereafter, at about half past ten o'clock, the party took carriages and left for the church, according to programme. Broadway was lined with spectators waiting for the funeral procession, and flags were suspended at half mast from nearly all the buildings on either side of the whole length of the thoroughfare.

The police stood in front of the church as a guard. The church opened at about half past ten, and about ladies had previously been admitted and filled the galleries. During the hour which elapsed before the arrival of the procession, a strain of music was discoursed by the choir. Among the first celebrated dignitaries to arrive were the Mayor, President Grant, and Roscoe Conkling. Soon afterwards and immediately following them came Henry Wilson, Minister Washburne, and Secretary Belmont, who sat at the right of the pulpit. There were also Gen. Schurz, Lyman Trumbull, and President Wilson. The crowd outside the church extended as far as the eye could reach on either side of Fifth avenue, waiting for the arrival of the procession.

The building had been appropriately decorated. Over the entrance hung a flag draped with black. In the vestibule was a portrait of Greeley, with a wreath around the frame. The screen behind the pulpit was covered with black cloth, hanging in graceful folds, and relieved by festoons of white flowers. The floor of the pulpit itself and the rail in front were fully draped. Drapery ran around the front of the galleries, and from bracket to bracket along the side walls. Lengths of serge draped from the centre of the ceiling to the spring of each arch, twined about the columns, and hung from the balcony to the organ. The clock stopped at twelve before seven, the hour of Greeley's death, was surrounded with black, and above it in green wreath was a white cross of flowers. The pew which Greeley used to occupy, about midway of the north aisle next to the organ, was draped with black. The figure, in flowers, of a lyre with broken strings hung at the head. The seat was thickly strewn with flowers, carnations being placed in the spot which Greeley himself used to occupy. This pew will be left empty for thirty days.

The most remarkable decorations of the church, however, were the flowers. There was a beautiful appropriateness and personal significance in many of the devices which surrounded his bier. At the back of the pulpit door, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," with a wreath of ripened wheat, a fit emblem of the rich harvest the keen sickle of death had so lately reaped. Below this was a shield of white flowers with the arms of the State of New York in purple blossoms, the gift of the Common Council. Still below the last was a wreath of white flowers, in the form of a cross. A magnificent arch of white flowers, presented by the ladies of Dr. Chapin's congregation, spanned the pulpit. Over the speaker's head, on its white ground, was wrought in crimson blossoms the motto "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Around these the words "It is done," were repeated again and again in decorations in all sorts of devices. At the right of the pulpit stood another gift from the Common Council, a large stand of which the organist knew that my Redeemer liveth." The stand was covered with flowers, rose buds and carnations, and tuberoses, surmounted by a crown brought from the same lovely blossoms. A similar stand and crown was the gift of Mayor Hall, and another came from the Lincoln Club.

The Lotus, the United League and the League of Women Voters, presented appropriate offerings. From the Glee Club and Brown Club came an immense quilt, wrought in the choicest flowers. One of the most remarkable of tributes was a plow composed of carnations and white roses, with a ground work of violets and the most beautiful design was the gift of the Tribune employees. Among the most conspicuous offerings was a magnificent floral tablet, three and a half feet wide, standing about six feet from the floor, and presenting the appearance of a picture supported by columns, of which the most striking feature was a wreath of white flowers. The ground of the tablet was formed of the choicest white flowers, inscribed at the top with the words "It is done," and in the center, "I know that my Redeemer liveth." On the reverse were the letters "H. G." and the motto "In memory of Horace Greeley." The tablet was supported by columns, of which the most striking feature was a wreath of white flowers. 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